

REPORT ON INFORMATION COLLECTED CONCERNING APPLICANT

Under California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 60835, the Bureau of State Audits is responsible for collecting information concerning applicants for the Citizens Redistricting Commission that is needed by the Applicant Review Panel to perform its responsibilities. Pursuant to that regulation, Stephanie Ramirez-Ridgeway, Counsel for the Applicant Review Panel, requested information on behalf of the panel concerning an applicant being considered for selection to the Commission. This is a report by bureau staff in response to that request.

Name of Applicant: Edward E. Best.

Date of request to collect information: July 8, 2010.

Statement of request: According to Applicant's Form 700, his wife, Linda Best, is employed by the Contra Costa Council, which is a nonprofit organization engaged in public policy advocacy. ARP counsel is asking the Bureau to find out some information about the Contra Costa Council that may assist the ARP in evaluating whether Applicant's wife being employed by the Council may have an effect on Applicant's qualifications to serve as a member of the Citizens Redistricting Commission. Specifically, what is the mission of the Council? Does the Council engage in lobbying activities, and if so, what activities? What duties does Applicant's wife perform for the Council?.

Response to request: In order to respond to this request, Bureau staff conducted some research regarding Linda Best and the Contra Costa Council, and interviewed Ms. Best. Bureau staff found that Ms. Best is the President and CEO of the Contra Costa Council. The Council is a membership organization whose members include: private sector entities such as non-profits, large employers, and labor organizations; special districts, such as the East Bay Municipal Utilities District, the Contra Costa Water District, and the Contra Costa Sanitary District; as well as Contra Costa County and a few cities. The mission of the Council is to advocate for the economic vitality and quality of life of Contra Costa County. The Council studies public policy issues and advocates its findings/recommendations to lawmakers, mostly at the local level. The Council studies public policy issues by forming task forces to look at the issues. The Council advocates by contacting federal and state lawmakers, mostly via letters. The Council attends county board of supervisors meetings when advocating at the county level. The Council is not a lobbying organization, and neither the Council nor Ms. Best has been registered as a state or federal lobbyist..

Recommendations: None.

Name and title of person submitting report: Steven Benito Russo, Chief of Investigations.

Report date: July 16, 2010.